

Message Text

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FOR: IPS

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AVIATION

1. EL COMERCIO OF QUITO HAS OPENED A SUDDEN ATTACK ON THE DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AVIATION FOR ITS POLICY OF LIMITING FLIGHTS AND PASSENGERS ON FOREIGN FLAG FLIGHTS INTO AND OUT OF ECUADOR

2. A PAGE ONE ARTICLE APPEARING JUNE 9 WAS HEADLINED "NUMBER OF TOURISTS COMING TO OUR COUNTRY DECREASE IN LAST MONTHS," WITH A SUBHEADLINE "DUE TO SPACE LIMITATIONS ON PLANES." THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY AN EDITORIAL CARTOON IN THE AFTERNOON TABLOID VERSION OF THE SAME PAPER, AN EDITORIAL AND AN EDITORIAL CARTOON IN THE JUNE 10 EDITIOKGM

3. THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE READ MUCH LIKE AN EDITORIAL, STATING THAT THE CIVIL AVIATION MEASURE WAS "GRAVELY PREJUDICIAL FOR THE COUNTRY, BECAUSE THE TRIPS OF NUMEROUS TOURIST GROUPS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED" FOR LACK OF FLIGHT SPACE. ULTIMAS NOTICIAS ON THE AFTERNOON OF THE SAME DAY CARRIED QJ EDITORIAL CARTOON BY ROQUE HEADLINED "TOURIST DEVELOPMENT," SHOWING A MAN STANDING BESIDE A BOARDED-UP DOOR LOOKING AT A POSTER LABELED "ECUADOR: TOURIST PARADISE (IT HAS NO TOURISTS)." CUTLINE SAID: "THEY HAVE ALSO PROHIBITED THE IMPORTATION OF TOURISTS*"

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4. THE LEAD EDITORIAL IN THE JUNE 10 ISSUE WAS DEVOTED TO THE SAME

PROBLEM. HEADLINED "TOURISM AND AVIATION", THE EDITORIAL CLAIMED A 50 PER CENT DROP IN AIR PASSENGERS IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS DUE TO THE LACK OF SPACE ON FLIGHTS INTO ECUADOR, BECAUSE OF THE "ARBITRARY LIMITS IMPOSED BY THE OFFICE OF CIVIL AVIATION". AT THE SAME TIME, IT SAID, ECUATORIANA WAS OPERATING AT FULL CAPACITY WITHOUT THE NEED TO FIX SPACE LIMITS ON OTHER CARRIERS. THE RESULT WAS THAT PLANS FOR TOURIST EXPANSION HAVE BEEN CAST ASIDE, IT SAID.

5. ECUATORIANA SUFFERED A SETBACK WHEN ITS SERVICES WERE SUSPENDED FOR A LONG TIME, THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED. "IT IS FAIR TO SUPPORT ECUATORIANA, BUT NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF THE TOURIST INDUSTRY AND OF VIRTUALLY BLOCKING INTERNATIONAL AVIA ON COMPANIES FROM HELPING IN THE TRANSPORTATION OF PASSENGERS."

6. ASDRUBAL, ONE OF THE NATION'S BEST EDITORIAL CARTOONISTS, SHOWED IN THE SAME ISSUE OF EL COMERCIO A PILOT STANDING BESIDE A "STOP" SIGN LABELED CIVIL AVIATION. HE IS BEING TAPPED ON THE SHOULDER BY A MAN HOLDING A SIGN SAYING "ECUADOR: TOURIST COUNTRY." BELL

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